

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 SY-05

DHA-02 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 EB-07 INR-07 CIAE-00 /075 W

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R 121422Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4685

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMMBASSY DAMASCUS 563

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SANA

S E C R E T JIDDA 3433

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SA, YS

SUBJECT: INCARCERATION OF VICTOR DICK IN PDRY

REF: (A) JIDDA 3102 (NOTAL): (B) STATE 110081 (NOTAL)

1. AMBASSADOR MET WITH LOCAL NATIONAL CASH REGISTER (NCR) REPRESENTATIVE PENGELLY (A BRITISH CITIZEN) AND SAUDI GENERAL MANAGER, MR. ABOUD, TO DISCUSS VICTOR DICK'S INCARCERATION. AMBASSADOR RECEIVED FROM NCR REP LETTER FROM WILLIAM ANDERSON, CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT OF NCR, ASKING EMBASSY TO SUPPORT AND TRANSMIT NCR APPEAL TO SAG. AMBASSADOR WILL PRESENT ANDERSON'S APPEAL, UNDER COPY OF LETTR FROM HIMSELF, TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE SAUD. (ON MAY 10, DCM OUTLINES VICTOR CASE TO MFA UNDER SECREATRY AMBASSADOR AL MANSOURI AND TOLD HIM MINISTRY WOULD SOON BE RECEIVING FURTHER DETAILS; MANSOURI SAID HE WOULD NOTIFY PRINCE SAUD AND WOULD SEE THAT MATTER RECEIVED SAUD'S ATTENTION UPON RETURN FROM ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN ISTANOUL, PROBABLY MAY 15 OR 16.)

2. EMBASSY COMMENT: TO WHAT DEGREE ARE SAUDIS LIKELY TO INVOLVE THEMSELVES WITH PDRY ON BEHALF OF VICTOR DICK? ON THE ONE HAND, THEY MIGHT NOT WANT TO BLUNT THEIR

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DEMARCHE TO PRDY

LEADERS BY ASKING -- AT ITS VERY INCEPTION -- FOR A MATCHING GESTURE FROM ADEN THAT MAY BE OF LITTLE CONCERN TO THEM. PRINCE FAHD, PRINCE SULTAN, AND OTHERS MAY FEEL THEY ARE PLAYING FOR MORE IMPORTANT, LONGER RANGE STAKES IN THE PDRY. THEY MIGHT NOT WANT ADEN TO CONCLUDE THAT IT HAS DISCHARGED ANY OBLIGATION INCURRED BY THE RECEIPT OF GENEROUS SAUDI AID, MERELY BY THE RELEASE OF VICTOR DICK.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE HAS BEEN SOME QUESTIONING WITHIN SAG, AND WITHIN THE REGION (ESPECIALLY FROM IRAN) AS TO WHETHER SAUDI ARABIA IS GOING TO GET ITS MONEY'S WORTH OUT OF THE PDRY. AN EARLY RELEASE OF DICK, THEREFORE, COULD BE ADDUCED AS AN EARLY SIGN THAT SAUDI DIPLOMACY WAS WORKING. FURTHER MEETINGS WITH SAUDI LEADERS, ESPECIALLY PRINCE SAUD, SHOULD GIVE US AN IDEA TOWARD WHICH OF THESE ALTERNATIVES SAG WILL INCLINE.

4. IT OCCURS TO US, HOWEVER, THIS IS A SITUATION WHERE PRESIDENT ASAD OF SYRIA COULD HELP. MR. DICK IS A LEBANESE NATIONAL, AND PERHAPS PRESIDENT ASAD COULD MAKE AN EFFECTIVE APPEAL TO HIS FELLOW REVOLUTIONARIES IN ADEN ON BEHALF OF A CITIZEN OF AN IMPORTANT, NEIGHBORING COMMUNITY ON SYRIA'S. IF ASAD COULD BE HELPFUL IN THIS MATTER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE SAG WOULD OBJECT, AND AN OPPORTUNITY WOULD HAVE BEEN CREATED FOR SYRIA TO APPEAR (IN LEBANON ESPECIALLY) AS SYMPATHETIC, HELPFUL, AND MODERATE IN A HUMANITARIAN CAUSE.
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